WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
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Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending December 23, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes - F.o.b. sales Idaho Russets U.S. #1 $2.49, Size A ten cents higher. Wholesale prices western markets closed the week at $3.25 to $3.52 per 100 pounds. Netted Gems, Klamath origin, U.S. #1 A $3.15 to $3.65.

Carlot shipments from Idaho to date this season 19,114 cars, last season same date 19,531 cars. Total U.S. shipments this season to date 168,954 cars, last season same date 182,743 cars.

Lettuce - Weekly carlot movement declined slightly this past week to 1,214 cars for Western Region, and 1, 219 cars for the U.S. Season's total for the U.S. to date 11,848 cars, last season same date 12,108 cars.

Western market wholesale prices closed the week at $3.75 to $4.50 per crate of 4 dozen heads dry pack in California and Arizona, and $4.00 to $5.08 in the Northwest.

Cabbage - Shipments continue to decline. Movement past week 371 cars. Shipments from the Western Region dropped 42 cars from the previous week.

Wholesale prices on western markets ranged $2.00 to $3.25 per crate for Flat Dutch, and up to $6.00 per crate for Red stock.

Cauliflower - Wholesale prices slightly higher than previous week, although very little change in the range at close of the week.

Shipments past week 371 cars for U.S., bringing season's total to 3,125 cars, 30.5 percent increase over last season to same date. Shipments from Western Region 161 cars, same as for previous week.

Apples - Movement into wholesale markets past week 1,431 cars, a drop of 39 percent from that of the week previous. Total carlot movement this season to date 32,771 cars, 57 percent greater than last season to same date.

Wholesale prices on western markets for Fancy and Extra Fancy grades closed the week on a narrow range for most varieties, mostly quoted at $3.80 to $3.85 per box. Supplies about equaled demand.

Oranges - California Navel wholesale prices on eastern markets closed the week at ceiling for all sizes of good quality, mostly $4.50 to $5.38 per box.

Supplies were heavier although not yet meeting demand. Rail movement for the past week again up, 3,158 cars for the U.S. and 1,538 cars for Western Region compared with 3,353 cars and 1,190 cars for the previous week. Season's total for U.S. 20,250 cars compared with 20,960 cars last season same date.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Some relief from the tight butter situation may reach the consumer by the middle of January. Prices on all markets continued to press the full allowable ceiling.

Weather conditions have not been favorable for good butter production, particularly in the heavy butter producing states of the north central area. U. S. production is approximately 12 percent below last year at this same time.

Eggs - Production and receipts gained slightly in the east the past week, but declined in the West. Demand continued in excess of supplies. Pre-holiday demand in the West appears much heavier than in any previous season. Military requirements, heavy population increases without proportionate increases in flocks, and production facilities for this time of year appear to be chief causes.

Poultry - B.A.E. reports that strong demand throughout the country for chicken meat is likely to continue. They indicate this to be the result of heavy military requirements and relatively large consumer incomes. Demand past week was above supplies for most stock, and prices pushed ceilings.

Chick production by commercial hatcheries was reported by B.A.E. to be 18 percent smaller in November this year than in November 1943.

Order G4 has been suspended by OPA. Affects all turkey shipments made after December 22, 1944.

Cheese - WFA announced Cheddar cheese set-aside for January will be 25 percent, same as for November and December. January, 1944, set-aside was 30 percent.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice - Because of continued rains during the week, the California rice harvest is stopped for the season. December estimates place the California rice crop at 6,480,000 bags, compared with 6,552,000 bags in 1943. U.S. total 1944 is estimated at 70,237,000 bags, 1943 64,843,000 bags. (Bag-100 lbs.)

Wheat - Winter wheat acreage seeded in the fall of 1944 is estimated at 49,349,000 acres, 7 percent above the 1943 fall planting.

Pacific Northwest wheat market showed gains during the past week of ½ to 2 cents per bushel, with the hard wheats registering the greater gain. Soft White and Western Red closed the week on bids of $1.53½ per bu., and Hard Red Winter at $1.54 per bu.

Demand from California past week was for the hard wheats - mostly Montana and Oregon stock.

Barley - Western Barley markets averaged slightly stronger than last week, although demand at close of week was not so active. No.1 and No.2 Bright Western on California markets closed the week at $2.35 to $2.50 per bushel for stock testing 46 pounds per bushel, at Portland No.2 Bright Western testing 46 pounds brought $2.35 to $2.38.

COTTON

WFA reports that cotton ginned prior to December 13 was lower in grade and longer in staple than the 1943 crop. About 12 percent of the crop remains in the fields account poor weather and muddy fields.

Middling 15/16" on the 10 markets averaged on Friday 21.61 cents per pound compared with 21.60 last week and 19.77 a year ago.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle - The four western wholesale markets received during the week 21,370 head, a decline of 21 percent from previous week. The twelve principal markets reflected a decline of 13 percent from the previous week resulting in 217,400 head, 16 percent above receipts for the same week a year ago.

Top prices on western wholesale markets were again on the same relative trend as for the previous week with fed steers at $15.50 to $16.25.

Hogs - Again support weights reflected slight increases in price on the western markets, with top prices at or near ceilings. Receipts on the western markets up 21 percent above previous week to 17,463 head. On the twelve principal markets there was a drop of 9 percent below the previous week and 21 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, total 353,200 head.

Sheep - Receipts continue to decline, twelve principal markets 5 percent, and four western markets 11 percent below previous week, results 274,500 and 18,486 head respectively.

Top prices on good wooled lambs past week on western markets ranged $12.80 to $15.00.

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P.L.H.-12/26/44